



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Greg Meszaros, Director
Austin Water Utility

DATE: June 9, 2008

SUBJECT: Ratification of Amendment No. 1 for Repair of bedding for the 72-inch Water Transmission Main at 3rd and San Antonio

While constructing a utility tunnel in the intersection of 3rd and San Antonio Streets, a developer's contractor undermined the gravel bedding for an existing 72-inch diameter transmission main. The roof of the tunnel failed which allowed the gravel bedding to spill into the tunnel. The resulting loss of support put the 72-inch main in jeopardy of failure.

To prevent failure of the main, its bedding needed to be reestablished. This was accomplished by injecting grout into the soil and voids around the main.

The scope of the repairs was beyond the capabilities of the Utility's workforce, and the main was required to be back in service by the end of April. Since this did not allow enough time to advertise for bids, an Emergency Affidavit declaring the situation a threat to public health and safety was executed and the Utility acquired the services of a grouting contractor to conduct this work. Since this was an emergency action, MBE/WBE goals were not set.

In advance of the grouting operation the Utility used an existing rotation contract with a Subsurface Utility Engineering firm to identify the location of existing facilities in the intersection. This information was necessary to plan and execute the grouting operation.

The grouting process began February 25th and was completed March 10th. The bedding repair has been completed and the main was returned to service on April 18th. The main has been operating properly since being placed back in service, thus the bedding repair has been successful in preventing the mains failure.

A Recommendation for Council Action for ratification of the action is being submitted to the Water and Wastewater Commission on June 18, 2008, and City Council Consideration on June 18, 2008.

If you require additional information regarding this situation, please contact Greg Meszaros at 972-0101.

Greg Meszaros, Director
Austin Water Utility

xc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Rudy Garza, Assistant City Manager